ane producer. The computed intertional prices of sugar, less consarsion costs, is converted to sugarane using a recovery rate of 8.5% for comparison with domestic support price of sugarcane.

The details of calculation of AMS are provided in the Schedule of Commitments to GATT available in the Parliament Library.

Abolition of cess on Tea

3679. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under Government's consideration to abolish cess on tea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board has opposed the proposal and has pleaded for hiking the cess from the present rate of 15 paise to 50 paise per Kg.;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether it is a fact that some unscrupulous businessmen have been exporting inferior quality tea, which has a negative impact on the export market; and

(f) if so, what action has been contemplated or is being contemplated against such traders and what is being done to refurnish the Indian tea image abroad and promote exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A proposal has been received from the Tea Board to raise the rate of cess on tea to 45 paise per Kg. from its present general level of 15 paise per Kg. for Tea Development as also to levy 5 paise per Kg. for financing the Indian Institute of Plantation Management. However, no final decision has been taken with regard to desirability or the pattern of raising the cess either for the additional development schemes or for the institute.

(e) and (f) Complaints have been received by the Tea Board against a few Indian exporters for exports of substandard and inferior quality teas to Russia and CIS countries. These complaints have been looked into by the Tea Board and action has been taken under provisions of Tea (Disbtribution and Export) Control Order, 1957 against such exporters. As part of confidence building measures, representative of the Tea Board's office has been meeting buyers for resolving their problems and assuring them of the quality and reliability of Indian tea. In addition to this, promotional campaigns for Indian tea through media (Press and Television), tea sampling demonstration, participation in consumer exhibitions etc. have also been planned by Tea Board's Moscow office.

US RU Ling against import of stainless steel bar from India

3680. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. International Trade Commission has made a preliminary ruling against import of stainless steel bar from India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in January, 1994 the Commission had